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SHORT COMMUNICATION

***Oxypoda praecox* Erichson (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae) an addition to the British fauna.**—As part of a Nature Conservancy Council survey of the invertebrate fauna of selected coastal shingle sites a number of trap lines were set up at Dungeness, Kent. A pitfall trap placed on an alluvial bar with *Phragmites*, *Urtica dioica* and *Cirsium arvense* between 25.v.89 and 9.vi.89 captured a single female *Oxypoda praecox*. This is one of the smaller *Oxypoda* and most closely resembles *O. lurida*, it has similar long maxillary palpi (rather like *Myllaena*). It is however paler than *lurida*, of broader form, with the abdomen more tapering. It is smaller, 1.7–2.1 mm (*lurida* is 2.3–2.6 mm). Lohse (1974) gives an excellent key, figure of the foreparts showing the long palps and illustrates the genitalia. He states that *praecox* is uncommon. Horion (1976) gives a detailed account of its distribution showing that it comes westwards as far as Belgium and Holland. I thank Dr Ian McLean and Mr Roger Morris of the NCC for the opportunity to examine the Dungeness material.—S.A. Williams 40, Preston Park, Faversham, Kent ME13 8LN.

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